

Selangor reps still under MACC sand-theft probe
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KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 25 — Selangor assemblymen Mat Shuhaimi Shafiei and Amirudin Shari remain persons of interest in investigations by graftbusters on the sand-theft phenomenon said to have cost the state RM600 million, the New Straits Times reported today.

Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) investigations director Datuk Mustafar Ali told the newspaper that the duo may be called in for further interviews, adding that the commission has now broadened the range of the probe.

Shuhaimi and Amirudin were interviewed over the case in July of 2010. The former is the representative for Sri Muda while the latter is Batu Caves assemblyman.

The sand-mining controversy erupted soon after Pakatan Rakyat (PR) took the reins in Selangor, following allegations that sand theft and corruption had cost the state hundreds of millions of ringgit.

Earlier this month, self-exiled blogger Raja Petra accused the two Selangor state assemblymen of taking bribes from sand-mining contractors.

The duo, both from PKR, has denied the Malaysia-Today editor's claims.

On Thursday, the chairman of the MACC operations review panel (PPO), Tan Sri Dr Hadenan Abdul Jalil, clarified that the sand-theft case was still ongoing and had not been closed as previously reported.

"During today's PPO meeting, we've agreed that these assemblymen's cases be studied again by MACC since there are a few matters which are still being investigated," Hadenan had said on Thursday.

"The [PPO] scrutinised our investigation papers and instructed us to look at other angles in the investigations, to focus on different angles of offences," Mustafar was quoted as saying by the NST today.

Mustafar declined, however, to elaborate on the new direction investigations would take.

"We are digging deeper. We will take as much time as possible before submitting the case to the deputy public prosecutor," he added.

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